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BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1957

R. E. ROBINSON, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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(1)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.
(with qualifications)

Medical Officer of Health:

R. E. Robinson, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector,
and Superintendent of Public Cleansing:

H. WOODCOCK.

Certified Sanitary Inspector
Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.

Associate Member of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

R. ISHERWOOD.

Certified Sanitary Inspector,
Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. OGDEN.

Clerk:

MRS. K. THOMAS.

(2)

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND WATER COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN:

COUNCILLOR WM. ALDERSON, C.A.,
(Died 21st November, 1957)

COUNCILLOR WM. STARKIE, C.C.,
(From 19th December, 1957)

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

COUNCILLOR E. DINSDALE.

Councillors:

C. E. ANGUS.

W. ATKINSON.

E. BROXUP.

Mrs. E. FIELDEN.

F. PICKLES.

W. ROBERTS.

J. STANWORTH, M.B.E.

F. SUTCLIFFE.

H. ATKINSON.

J. BROUGHTON, J.P.

W. DENT.

T. LANE.

T. PYE.

T. SMITH.

D. H. J. STUTTARD.

C. E. WHITTAKER.

R. WOOD.

(3)

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of
Burnley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the standard of health in the Burnley Rural District, and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1957.

I am pleased to say that throughout the year there was a steady but maintained improvement in the services. A glance at the graphs on page 6 gives an overall picture for the last ten years on the personal services throughout the area and these compare very favourably with those for England and Wales.

Notifiable infectious fevers were few other than an outbreak of measles. The number of cases was the highest for many years. Fortunately, the virulence of the virus was low and it was confined chiefly to pre-school children.

In September, an explosive outbreak of influenza broke out in the schools, but owing to the very scattered situation of the population it did not cause the inconveniences suffered by the nearby school population of Nelson and Colne.

The conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system is progressing slowly, but where houses and farms are long distances from a sewer the private water supplies need very constant supervision to maintain the wholesome supply of water.

I am grateful to the members of the Health Committee for their interest and help and to my staff for their ever ready help and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. E. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Registrar-General's estimate of home population, mid-year 1957..	16260
Area of the district.....	39841 acres
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1957, according to rate books.....	6024
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1958).....	£192,415
Sum represented by 1d. rate..... (actual for year ended 31st March, 1957)	£762.8889

The chief occupations of the people in the district are cotton weaving, coal mining and dairy farming.

Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.....	94	101	195
Illegitimate.....	-	1	1

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population, mid-1957.....	13.9
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Stillbirths.

Rate per total (live and still) births.....	25
---	----

Deaths.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of deaths (all causes)	116	113	229

Death rate per 1,000 population, mid-1957.....	13
--	----

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

Puerperal sepsis.....	0
Other maternal causes.....	2

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.....	4
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.....	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	20
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	15

Total deaths from cancer (all forms).....	36
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Other certified causes of death were as follows:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases....	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	10	9	19
Leukaemia.....	1	0	1
Diabetes.....	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	13	23	36
Coronary disease, angina.....	28	15	43
Hypertension with heart disease.....	2	4	6
Other heart disease.....	15	26	41
Other circulatory disease.....	6	4	10
Pneumonia.....	4	4	8
Bronchitis.....	5	2	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	2	2	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	0	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	3	0	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	9	4	13
Motor vehicle accidents.....	2	1	3
All other accidents.....	3	3	6
Suicide.....	2	0	2
	<u>116</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>229</u>

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The laboratory work for the department is carried out at the Central Pathological Laboratory, Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

2. Ambulance Facilities.

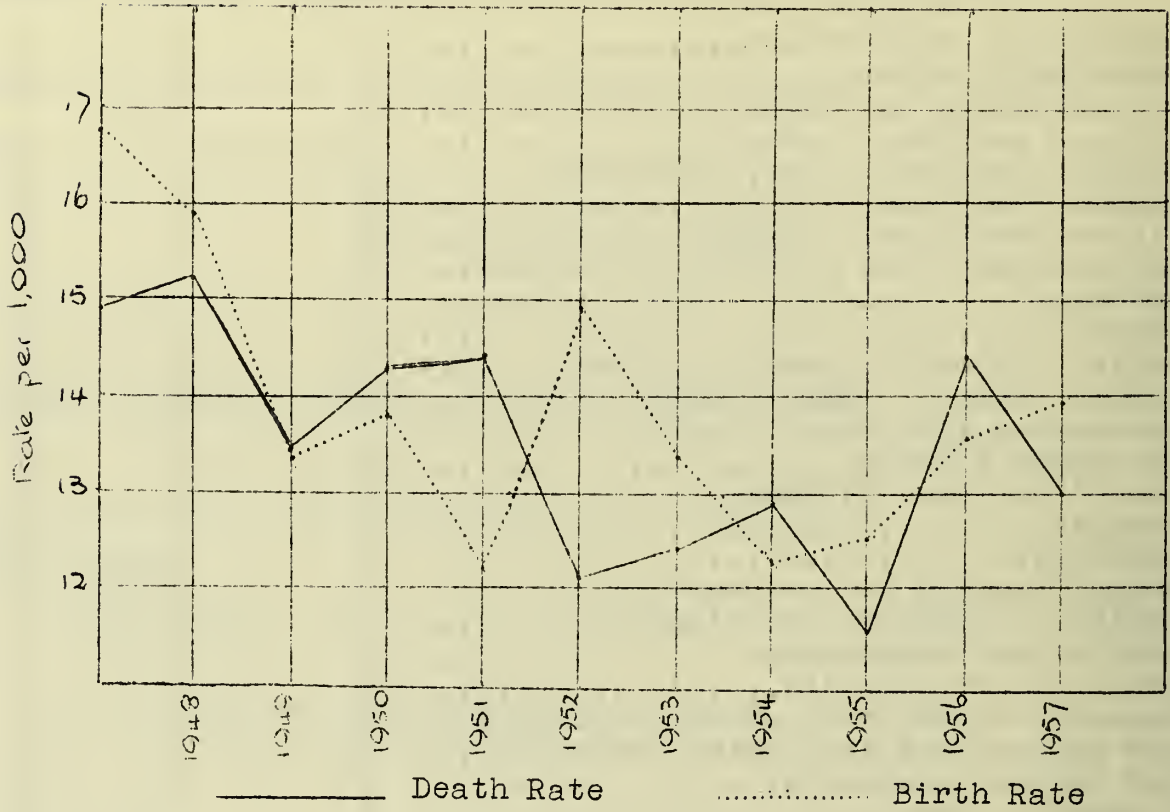
All the ambulance undertakings for this district are carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

3. Nursing Services.

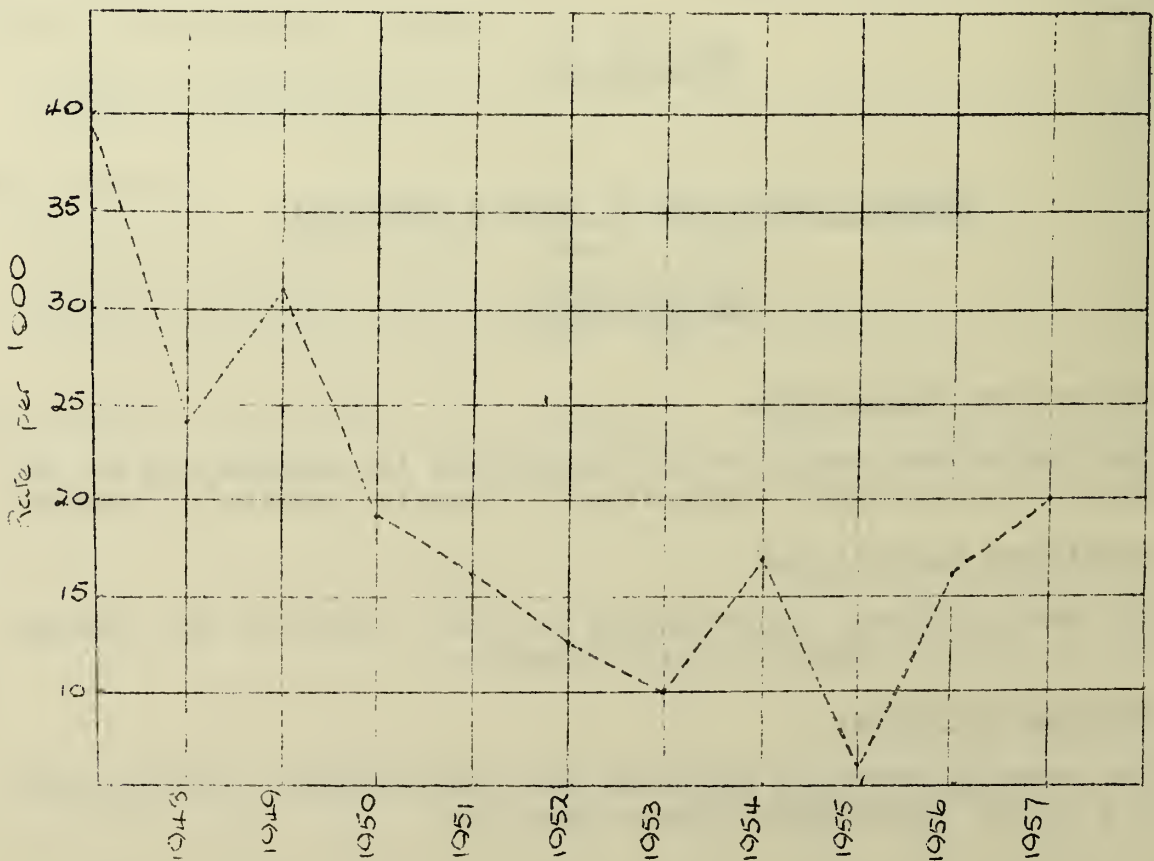
The nursing services provided for this district are carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

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GRAPH SHOWING BIRTH AND DEATH RATE FOR
PAST 10 YEARS.



GRAPH SHOWING INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR
PAST 10 YEARS.



4. Immunisation and Vaccination Services, Home Helps, etc.

All these are under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

5. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Child Welfare Centres:

Barrowford U.D.C.	.....	Assembly Rooms, Church Street, Barrowford.
Brierfield U.D.C.	.....	Town Hall Annexe, Brierfield.
Burnley R.D.C.	.....	Methodist Chapel, Briercliffe. Village Hall, Holme, Cliviger. Warehouse Lane, Foulridge. Council School, Hapton. 7, Town Gate, Higham. Methodist Sunday School, Sabden. do. Worsthorne.
Colne M.B.	.....	Bank House, Albert Rd., Colne.
Nelson M.B.	.....	9/11, Carr Road, Nelson.
Padiham U.D.C.	.....	West Bank House, Padiham.
Trawden U.D.C.	.....	St. Mary's Church Schoolroom, Trawden.

School Clinics:

Elizabeth Street, Burnley.
West Bank House, Padiham.
9/11, Carr Road, Nelson.
Bank House, Albert Road, Colne.
259, Manchester Road, Nelson.

Tuberculosis:

Cases of suspected tuberculosis are now seen at the Chest Clinic, Marsden Hospital, Marsden Road, Burnley.

Venereal Diseases:

At the Out-Patient Department, Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity cases:

Christiana Hartley Hospital, Colne.
Fern Lea, Nelson.
Bank Hall, Burnley.

All these are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

SECTION C.PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.Infectious Diseases.

The infectious diseases notified during the year were:

Scarlet fever.....	18
Whooping Cough.....	20
Measles.....	204
Dysentery.....	2
Acute Pneumonia.....	3
Food Poisoning.....	1

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total.</u>
No. of primary notifications received from medical practitioners on Form A,.....	2	2	4
Un-notified cases (obtained from Death returns).....	0	0	0

Localisation of Disease.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary tuberculosis.....	0	2	2
Meninges and C.N.S.....	0	0	0
Other.....	1	1	2
	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

Occupations.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Schoolchildren.....	1	2	3
Housewife.....	-	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

There were no cases of scabies notified to this authority during the year.

SECTION D.CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.1. Water Supply.

The area is supplied chiefly by water from the Council's own waterworks and from those of adjoining local authorities, but in addition, there are also several privately owned water supplies.

The number of samples taken during the year was:

Bacteriological.

Public supplies: 29
Private supplies: 16

Chemical.

Public supplies: 0
Private supplies: 0

Details of the estimated number of houses with a piped supply of water are as follows:

Parish	Piped Supplies			Not Piped
	No. of dwelling houses	From public water mains	From private supplies	
Altham.....	226	226	-	-
Barley.....	81	24	53	4
Blacko.....	184	157	19	8
Briercliffe.....	894	875	9	10
Cliviger.....	544	450	84	10
Dunnockshaw.....	132	34	94	4
Foulridge.....	505	475	26	4
Goldshaw Booth.....	85	41	42	2
Habergham Eaves.....	258	231	25	2
Hapton.....	604	573	28	3
Higham.....	213	166	41	6
Ightenhill.....	50	50	-	-
Northtown.....	32	19	12	1
Old Laund Booth.....	258	215	43	-
Read.....	322	304	18	-
Reedley Hallows.....	287	244	42	1
Roughlee.....	114	51	62	1
Sabden.....	448	392	56	-
Simonstone.....	216	206	10	-
Worsthorne.....	624	620	4	-

The department has been engaged during the year checking on the purity of water supplies.

In all, 45 samples of water, from public and private supplies, were taken and submitted to the Central Pathological Laboratory, Burnley for analysis.

The results of these samples were as follows:

Public Supplies.

29 samples taken for bacteriological examination.

Number reported excellent.....	19
Number reported good.....	2
Number reported suspicious.....	0
Number reported unsatisfactory.....	8

Private Supplies.

16 samples taken for bacteriological examination.

Number reported excellent.....	6
Number reported good.....	1
Number reported suspicious.....	3
Number reported unsatisfactory.....	6

In cases where water is reported unsatisfactory the users are requested to boil all water to be used for drinking purposes; unsatisfactory sources are investigated and, where possible, advice is given to owners so that improvements may be effected.

Where there are several springs running into one private supply, samples are taken from each spring, and where one or more is found to be unsatisfactory, then such spring can be disconnected, leaving only those where pure water is delivered.

In several cases it has been found that water issuing from a spring is piped for varying distances in field drain pipes to the tank which is used for storage, and an improvement has been carried out in some cases by the construction of a brick tank properly covered to receive that water from the spring, the water then being conveyed to the storage tank by properly jointed earthenware pipes.

2. POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

When any septic tanks are emptied an inspection is made and where improvements or repairs are necessary the appropriate notice is served on the owner. Filters require constant attention especially in the vicinity of trees as choking is caused by leaves falling in the Autumn.

The Cliviger sewerage scheme was completed in January, 1954, and there are now only fourteen pails existing which are within 100 ft. of the sewer. Efforts are now being made to persuade the property owners to convert their pails to fresh water closets.

Approximate number of houses connected to the sewer..... 366

In these cases the pails mentioned previously are outstanding, but the sink drainage from these fourteen houses has been connected to the sewer.

The chief source of river pollution is still from unsewered villages as follows:

Barley, Briercliffe (Lane Bottom area), Dunnockshaw, Ightenhill, Newchurch-in-Pendle, and Roughlee.

Another source of pollution is caused by drainage from farms. Sink drainage is usually piped direct to the nearest stream, and liquid manure tanks are, in the majority of cases, fitted with overflow pipes, again which discharge into adjoining streams. In some cases heavy pollution is caused by faulty outlet valves on these liquid manure tanks. Such outlets are generally stopped up with a sack. When emptying takes place the farmer manoeuvres his tank box under the outlet and removes the sack. The liquid manure runs from the outlet. When the tank box is full it is carted on to the land, but the liquid continues to run to the nearest stream until the box is again placed in position. This procedure continues until the tank is empty and it is not possible to re-stop the outlet until the tank is empty.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In April, 1950, the Council decided to give financial assistance towards the cost of converting privies and pail closets to fresh water closets. A grant of £8 or half the cost of the conversion, whichever was the lesser, was paid towards the cost of these improvements. The Council have now increased the grants as follows:

- a) Where the property is connected to a sewer not more than 100 ft. away..... £12.10.0d. per w.c.
- b) Where the property is connected to a sewer more than 100 ft. away..... up to £25 per w.c.
- c) Where the conversion involves the construction of a septic tank and filter intended to served one house only..... £25 per w.c.
- d) Where the conversion involves the construction of a septic tank and filter which will be shared by two or more houses, or in any other approved case, e.g. schools, factories, etc..... £20 per w.c.

In all cases, the amount shown is maximum. The grant will be that amount, or half the cost, whichever is the lesser.

The following table shows the number of conversions carried out during the year:

Privy closets to fresh water closets.....	0
Privy closets to waste water closets.....	0
Privy closets to pails.....	0
Pail closets to fresh water closets.....	6
Trough closets to fresh water closets.....	0
Wastewater closets to fresh water closets.....	32

The approximate number of the different types of sanitary conveniences in the district are as follows:

Fresh water closets.....	3127
Waste water closets.....	2369
Pail closets (including tank closets).....	873
Trough closets.....	13

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

On the whole, refuse was collected weekly, although during bad weather and following the July and September holidays, when the department closed down, collections deteriorated to fortnightly.

It should be remembered that when a dustman takes his holiday he comes back to practically double the amount of refuse. Many owner/occupiers spend the holiday in house repairing and decorating, and consequently more refuse is produced.

A lot of houses are now equipped with solid fuel cookers which burn twenty-four hours per day. Such properties produce more ash than houses with open fires.

Occasionally, when investigating a complaint of a full dustbin, it has been found that the tenant has placed a large cardboard carton in the bottom of the bin, thus leaving very little room for any other refuse to follow.

Every new house built adds greatly to the work of the men because the bins have to be carried a much greater distance than in the case of the conventional terraced house with the back yard and back street.

Vehicles and Labour.

The five-day week is still operating successfully.

In July, 1956, a foreman was appointed to devote his whole time to the service. He was provided with a 2 cu. yd. Bedford refuse collection vehicle in October, 1956. This vehicle with two additional men, is also used to assist refuse rounds which are behind schedule.

Refuse is collected as follows:

One 18/20 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper (six years old), staffed by a driver and four men.
Collection from: Worsthorne, Pike Hill, Red Lees, Overtown, Holme, Walk Mill, Dunnockshaw, Habergham Eaves, Hapton, Read, and Simonstone.

One 10 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Side Loader (seven years old), staffed by a driver and four men.

Collection from: Sabden, Higham, Fence, Blacko, Foulridge, Reedley, and Briercliffe.

One 7 cu. yd. Ford Diesel Side Loader (three years old) staffed by a driver and two men.

Collections from: Altham, Barley, Roughlee, Goldshaw Booth, Ightenhill, and from isolated properties around the villages.

This vehicle has shown considerable saving in fuel but repair costs have been high. There is excessive vibration because the engine is idling for much of the day and it is not practical to stop the engine whilst loading bins as too low a temperature is reached for efficient working.

One 2 cu. yd Bedford Side Loader, staffed by a foreman and two men.

Used for foreman's supervision, refuse collection when necessary to assist other vehicles, tip maintenance, collection of full salvage bags from vehicles, and collection of metals from tips.

Nightsoil Collection and Emptying of Cesspools.

One 800 gallon Shelvoke and Drewry Cesspool Emptier (seven years old), staffed by a driver and one man.

Approximately 650 pails are emptied weekly.

This vehicle is employed fifty-two weeks per year as pails cannot be left for two weeks. Some tenants now use Elsan type closets and the containers are not as large as the pails sold by the Council, consequently when such people have visitors they soon find that the container is full.

We have trouble with the 8" outlet valve on this vehicle which has to be renewed at least once per year. This is due to the type of material carried and to the fact that some tenants deposit anything objectionable into the pail. On one occasion we found half a bed sheet wrapped round the worm in the valve.

Pail emptying is most objectionable work and every credit is due to the two men who carry out the work and to those who fill the breach at holiday times.

Numerous calls are made for septic tanks to be emptied. Some of these have a large capacity and may take a whole day to empty. Consequently there is a limit to what can be done as the pail service must not be interrupted and cesspools and privies also need emptying at regular intervals.

Refuse Disposal.

Household refuse is deposited on tips in the parishes of Foulridge, Reedley, Hapton, Dunnockshaw, Old Laund Booth, Briercliffe, Sabden and Worsthorne.

The tip at Reedley was full and work commenced on culverting the stream so that this tip can be extended.

There is also need for a tipping site at Read and Simonstone. Since the vehicles return to the depot from each village with practically a full load of waste paper, it is important that there is a sufficient number of tips situated close to the more densely populated parts of the district.

At intervals, a Bristol tractor is hired from Nelson Corporation for tip maintenance.

Difficulty is experienced at Hapton by people depositing wallpaper, builders' refuse, etc., in the gateway, which leaves the approach very unsightly.

At Briercliffe the tip is used by factory owners for depositing flue dust. This has caused vehicles to be stuck on several occasions.

Sale of Galvanised Ware.

Dustbins and pails were sold to householders during the year as follows:

Galvanised light dustbins.....	108
Galvanised B.S.S. dustbins.....	125
Galvanised sanitary pails.....	42

5. SALVAGE.

A market was found for all the paper salvaged during the year although the average price was £6. 10s. per ton compared with £7 per ton the previous year.

The sale of paper showed an increase of 21 tons over the previous year but this brought in only an extra £40.

The total income from salvage last year was £1,042. 16. 6d., and the total weight was 146 tons. 12 cwts.

Weight and Value of Salvage sold during the year.

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper.....	158.	6.	0.	0.	1028.	19.	5.
Cardboard.....	8.	2.	2.	0.	60.	18.	10.
Aluminium.....		8.	1.	2.	34.	12.	0.
Brass.....				3.		2.	3.
Brass and Lead.....			1.	5.	1.	4.	9.
Copper.....			2.	13.	4.	5.	9.
Lead.....				9.		5.	3.
Old bagging.....		2.	1.	23.		19.	9.
Rags.....	1.	17.	0.	0.	44.	8.	0.
Scrap iron.....		4.	3.	20.	1.	7.	0.
String and rope.....		2.	0.	14.		11.	10.
Tins.....	13.	14.	0.	0.	48.	13.	3.
Twine.....				18.		1.	2.
Woollens.....				7.		7.	0.
Wrappers.....			1.	0.		2.	6.
Zinc.....				2.			6.
	182.	18.	3.	4.	£1226.	19.	3.

The men are paid a bonus on salvage sales, which amounted to £14. 9. 3d., for a man who worked the full period.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There is still a great need for sanitary conveniences in the district as only two parishes, Foulridge and Briercliffe, are so provided. The greatest need is in the parishes which attract numerous visitors at the week-ends and public holidays. It seems equitable that the Rural District should provide conveniences for townspeople on holiday when the towns provide conveniences for rural dwellers when out shopping.

7. DISINFECTION.

During the year thirty-three houses were visited for the purpose of disinfection. Formaldehyde was used in all cases except in the case of tuberculosis, where a 5% Izal solution was used.

Bedding is removed for steam disinfection, where necessary, to Burnley County Borough Cleansing Station.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The colliery spoilbank which has been burning for some years has now burnt out. Clay and stone were tipped to an average depth of ten or twelve feet over the whole area, and this has been very effective in keeping down the nuisance.

The gas manufacturing plant which has been reported previously does not seem to have caused much trouble this year as complaints have been very few.

During the year the economisers ceased to be effective and had to be removed. New ones were ordered and should be installed by the end of August, 1958. A new charging car was ordered in 1957 but has not yet been delivered. This will considerably reduce the emission of smoke when the ovens are charged with coal.

Minor repairs were carried out to the coke ovens and a diesel locomotive was purchased for use on the works. This is smokeless and will reduce the amount of work which is done by the existing steam locomotives.

Many of the cotton mills in the district are fitted with Lancashire boilers which are hand fired. This gives rise to regular emission of black smoke and is the cause of several complaints in various parishes.

9. RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent control in private dwellings and business premises was carried out during the year.

A free service was given in the case of private dwellings but a charge was made for the treatment of business premises and farms.

Rat destruction in the sewers has been carried out twice during the year and below are given details of infestations in sewer lengths treated up to the end of December, 1957.

The rodent operator acts as a relief driver on the refuse collection and nightsoil vehicles. This arrangement works quite satisfactorily.

Treatment, October, 1957.

	<u>Manholes Treated</u>	<u>Manholes Infested</u>	<u>% Infested</u>
Altham West.....	12	4	33.3
Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	14	28
Briercliffe.....	57	10	17.5
Cliviger.....	148	27	18.2
Foulridge.....	55	29	52.7
Habergham Eaves.....	22	7	31.8
Higham.....	60	7	11.6
Hapton and Altham.....	76	25	32.9
Read and Simonstone.....	64	12	18.8
Reedley.....	20	6	30
Sabden.....	48	19	39.6
Worsthorne.....	89	7	7.9

Treatment, April, 1957.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	12	3	25
Briercliffe.....	14	4	28.6
Cliviger.....	48	21	43.8
Foulridge.....	38	16	42
Hapton and Altham.....	12	3	25
Higham.....	8	0	0
Read and Simonstone.....	29	6	20.6
Reedley.....	6	3	50
Sabden.....	13	8	61.5
Worsthorne.....	7	5	71.4

Comparison is made with the figures obtained when these lengths of sewers were previously treated:

Treatment, October, 1956.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	4	8
Briercliffe.....	57	5	8.8
Cliviger.....	148	21	14
Foulridge.....	55	23	42
Higham.....	60	3	5
Hapton and Altham.....	82	21	25.6
Read and Simonstone.....	64	16	25
Reedley.....	20	3	15
Sabden.....	48	8	16.7
Worsthorne.....	84	4	4.8

Treatment, April, 1956.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	22	44
Briercliffe.....	57	17	30
Cliviger.....	145	21	14.5
Foulridge.....	55	23	42
Higham.....	60	0	0
Hapton and Altham.....	82	20	24.4
Read and Simonstone.....	57	11	19
Reedley.....	19	7	37
Sabden.....	48	22	46
Worsthorne.....	84	5	6

Treatment, 1955.

	<u>Manholes</u> <u>Treated</u>	<u>Manholes</u> <u>Infested</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Infested</u>
Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	2	4
Briercliffe.....	57	15	26
Cliviger.....	146	27	18
Foulridge.....	50	8	16
Higham.....	60	3	5
Read and Simonstone.....	57	3	5
Sabden.....	48	5	10
Worsthorne.....	84	10	12

Treatment, October, 1954.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	18	0	0
Briercliffe.....	18	6	33
Foulridge.....	32	4	12
Hapton and Altham.....	59	7	12
Higham.....	15	3	20
Read and Simonstone.....	35	2	6
Reedley.....	10	7	70
Sabden.....	29	8	28
Worsthorne.....	36	12	33

Treatment, April, 1954.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	8	16
Briercliffe.....	57	4	7
Cliviger.....	107	5	5
Foulridge.....	51	9	17
Hapton and Altham.....	82	21	25
Higham.....	60	6	10
Read and Simonstone.....	57	13	23
Reedley.....	19	4	21
Sabden.....	51	11	21
Worsthorne.....	84	22	26

Advisory Committee for Rodent Control.

The North-East Lancashire Advisory Committee was formed in 1954. This covered Workable Area No. 11, which comprised Colne, Nelson, Trawden, Brierfield, Barrowford, Burnley, Padiham, and Burnley Rural district, together with Workable Areas Nos. 10 and 15. Each district is represented by a member of the local authority and the Public Health Inspector. Half-yearly meetings are held in the respective districts when problems and progress are discussed.

10. OTHER VERMIN.

Thirteen houses were disinfested during the year. Ten were infested with cockroaches, one with silverfish, one with moths, and one with fleas.

11. SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Appendix A on page 25 shows the number of inspections carried out during the year.

12. TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There are two main sites on which vans and sheds are situated in addition to a number of movable dwellings on single sites in other parts of the district. Two of these sites are licensed by the Council.

Arrangements were made for the owner to collect nightsoil from the vans and this is then transferred to the Council's cesspool emptier for disposal. Campers deposit refuse in communal bins and these are emptied regularly.

Occasionally complaints are received of gypsies parking on the grass verges for short periods.

There are often caravans parked on open cast coal sites in the district. These belong to employees of the companies who work these sites and are stationed there for only a short period.

13. FACTORIES.

There are 134 factories in the district, chiefly cotton mills, and these are inspected regularly. Many of the factories have had modern sanitary accommodation installed in place of existing insanitary types.

There has been some difficulty in the parish of Altham where there are two factories with insufficient sanitary accommodation, and it has not been possible for the owner to install additional accommodation because of the lack of facilities for sewage disposal in that part of the district.

Factory inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on register	Inspections	Notices
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority...	4	4	0
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (not included above).....	123	50	20
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.....	7	7	0
Total....	134	61	20

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. in which defects were found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary conveniences:			
a) Insufficient.....	0	0	0
b) Unsuitable or defective..	20	6	4
Total....	20	6	4

SECTION E.HOUSING

There were no houses erected during the year by the Council. One house was erected by another local authority, and nineteen houses were erected by other bodies or persons during the year.

The Council purchased two existing houses for re-housing tenants from slum clearance houses.

Sixty-one applications have been received for two and three-bedroomed houses, and forty applications for old people's bungalows. These totals include a few applications submitted in 1951 which are now due for reconsideration.

Inspection and Repair of Houses.

Reports of housing defects are not as numerous as they were pre-1939. During the past ten years many tenants have purchased the houses in which they live, and landlords who had houses empty took advantage of their increased value to put them up for sale. Many of these houses which were in a poor state of repair when occupied as tenanted houses have been given a new lease of life by the money spent by the owner-occupiers and, in many cases, by their own manual efforts.

There is, however, one disadvantage to owner-occupied houses. Old couples often find themselves unable to work on their own property and are without sufficient funds to pay for repairs to be carried out. In such cases, houses seem to deteriorate rapidly, and people have to live under most unsatisfactory conditions. It is also important to realise that the owner-occupiers feel there is no point in complaining to the Public Health Inspector as there is no landlord to complain about.

Rent Increases and Certificates of Disrepair.
Rent Act, 1957.

The Rent Act, 1957, came into force on the 6th July, 1957.

During the year only one application was received for a certificate of disrepair, and this was granted.

The number of houses inspected during the year was 129, and 385 re-inspections were made. 75 informal notices were served during the year requiring repairs to be carried out and 61 informal notices were complied with.

Two houses were made fit after formal notice under the Public Health Act. Proceedings were taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of seven houses, and under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of six houses.

Particulars of housing inspections and repair work carried out are given in Appendices B and C.

SECTION F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a) Milk Supply.

On the 30th September, 1949, many of the duties in connection with milk supplies were taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The inspection of dairy farms is now no longer the concern of the local authority, but the local authority is responsible for the supervision of dairymen and milk distributors other than dairy farmers. The local authority is also responsible for the sampling of milk for biological tests.

No. of milk distributors in the district.....	32
No. of dairies in the district.....	17
Shops in the district other than dairies.....	12
Premises outside the district.....	3

No. of dealers' licences issued in respect of:

a) the distribution of tuberculin tested milk..	14
b) the distribution of sterilised milk.....	19
c) the distribution of pasteurised milk.....	18

b) Biological Examination of Milk Samples.

Raw Milk.

No. of samples taken for tuberculosis tests.....	47
No. reported negative.....	46
No. reported positive.....	1
Percentage of positive samples.....	2.1%
(By comparison the percentage of positive samples in 1956 was.....	1.4%)

The positive sample of raw milk was obtained from a distributor who produced raw milk in the district.

One positive sample of raw milk was reported by an adjoining authority, and a notice was served on the farmer concerned restraining the sale of raw milk for human consumption unless suitably heat treated.

Three cows were seized in the case of the sample taken within the Rural District by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and one cow was seized in the case of the sample reported from an adjoining authority.

No. of samples taken for methylene blue tests.....	85
No. reported satisfactory.....	73
No. reported unsatisfactory.....	12

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples a report is made to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Heat Treated Milk.

No. of samples for phosphatase tests.....	26
No. reported satisfactory.....	26
No. reported unsatisfactory.....	0

c) Meat and Other Foods.

Under the Government war-time scheme of meat control, private slaughterhouses in the district were not used before the 1st July, 1954. All slaughtering for this area before that date was carried out at Burnley and Colne public abattoirs, with the exception of cottagers' pigs.

Since July, 1954, the Council have licensed five slaughterhouses, one each in the parishes of Dunnockshaw, Cliviger, Higham, Read, and Sabden. At two of the slaughterhouses regular week-end killing is carried out. This necessitates both Inspectors working alternate week-ends, for which extra payment is received.

The slaughterhouse at Higham was used for a Deadweight Certification Centre, and the Council received payment for pigs notified by the Certification Officer.

The butchers' shops were inspected and generally found to be clean and well maintained.

Details of meat inspected and condemned within the district during 1957, are shown in Appendix E, on page 30.

Condemned Meat.

In the case of meat condemned at slaughterhouses and butchers' shops, small amounts are buried at the tip, and in some cases at the slaughterhouses. Large quantities of condemned meat are sent for manufacture into fertiliser.

Meat is coloured green at the time of condemnation.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and thus deals with the adulteration of food.

During the year 78 samples were obtained, and of these 51 were of milk. The other 27 samples comprised:

6 whisky	1 custard powder
2 margarine	2 semolina
1 grapefruit	1 treacle
1 cooking fat	1 olive oil
1 salad dressing	1 bismuth tablets
1 meat pie	1 christmas pudding
1 tincture of iodine	1 dried fruit
1 ammoniated	1 mincemeat
mercury ointment	1 honey
2 tea	1 glucose tablets.

The samples were analysed by the County Analyst, and I give below details of those on which he reported adversely:

<u>Sample.</u>	<u>Result of Analysis.</u>	<u>Action Taken.</u>
Milk	Fat 2.95%, deficient 1.6% fat. Low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified.
Milk	Fat 2.90%, deficient 3.3% fat.	Vendor notified.
Tincture of iodine.	Contained 0.05% iodine in excess of max. B.P. limit.	No action taken.
Ammoniated mercury ointment.	Container not labelled "poison".	Vendor interviewed.
Milk	Fat 2.8%, deficient 6.6% fat.	Vendor notified.

d) Food Preparing Premises.

Regular visits were made to canteens and food shops which are generally kept in a satisfactory manner.

There are, however, one or two exceptions and these are not easily improved. It does not seem possible to make a person handle food in a hygienic manner if he or she has not received adequate training.

The most effective remedy is for visits to be made daily and to set the food handler certain specific tasks to be carried out each day. In this way improvements can be brought about but it involves expense in travelling if one particular shop or canteen has to be visited for a long period.

Where the premises do not comply with the Food and Drugs Act, the necessary notices are served on the occupier.

There are quite a considerable number of cottagers who have catering licences, and as these people are open only at holiday times and week-ends, they are therefore difficult to supervise. To supervise such premises, it would be necessary to make regular visits on Sundays and public holidays.

Number of Food Premises, by type of business, at end of year.

General grocers and provision dealers.....	81
Greengrocers and fruiterers.....	11
Fishmongers.....	0
Meat shops.....	15
Bakers and/or confectioners.....	16
Fried fish shops.....	8
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, ice cream, etc.....	14
Licensed premises, cafes, etc.....	45
Others.....	38

e) Ice Cream.

The necessary attention was given to premises where ice cream is prepared and/or sold.

Eight samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Central Pathological Laboratory, Burnley, for analysis.

The results were obtained as follows:

No. of samples reported Grade 1.....	7
No. of samples reported Grade 2.....	1

Further samples were taken in the case of the unsatisfactory sample and the supply was improved.

f) Bakehouses.

There are sixteen bakehouses on the register, and routine inspections were carried out.

SCHOOLS.

During the year the twenty-three schools in the district were inspected and the following information may be of interest:

No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces..... 16

Sanitary Accommodation.

No. of schools with -	
Fresh water closets.....	17
Waste water closets.....	0
Trough closets.....	2
Pail closets.....	4

Refuse Disposal.

No. of schools with -	
Dustbins.....	23
Ashpits.....	0

Water Supply.

No. of schools supplied from -	
Public mains.....	21
Private supplies.....	2
No. of private supplies considered unsatisfactory.....	0
No. of schools where washing facilities are considered unsatisfactory.....	18

Drainage.

No. of schools with drainage to public sewers.....	19
No. of schools with drainage to private treatment works.....	0

Dinners are now cooked on the premises at most of the schools in the district. Kitchens have been enlarged and modernised and generally there has been considerable improvement. Meat is freshly cooked and refrigerators have been installed for the storage of perishable food. Previously, meals were prepared at a central kitchen. Dinners were cooked early in the morning (meat having been cooked the previous day) and then taken out in special containers to the different schools. Considerable time was taken in delivery.

APPENDIX A.SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE.General Sanitation.

Inspections under the Housing Acts.....	171
Inspections and visits in connection with I.D. cases.....	33
Disinfection of rooms.....	33
Bedding steam disinfected.....	3
Inspections under Public Health Acts.....	214
Visits to verminous premises.....	13
Premises inspected for vermin.....	16
Visits re water supplies.....	16
Visits re caravans and movable dwellings.....	34
Visits to factories re sanitary accommodation.....	27
Visits re refuse and salvage disposal.....	81
Visits re septic tanks and filters.....	59
Interviews with property owners.....	158
Visits re smoke.....	11
Old drains inspected.....	108
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.....	145
Shops inspected under Shops Act.....	439
Visits to schools.....	1
Visits to dirty houses.....	6
Visits re dustbins, pails, etc.....	108
Visits re infected milk supplies.....	1
Visits re conversions.....	46
Slaughterhouses inspected.....	2
Visits re trade refuse.....	1
Smoke observations.....	23
Visits re private water supplies.....	2
Visits to works in progress.....	4
Old drains tested.....	4
Visits re accumulations and deposits.....	9
Visits in connection with overcrowding.....	2
Visits re certificates of disrepair.....	30

Meat and Food Inspection and Inspection of Food Premises and Vehicles.

Meat inspection.....	747
Butchers shops inspected.....	12
Grocers shops inspected.....	18
Fried fish shops inspected.....	4
Food preparing premises inspected.....	28
Bakehouses inspected.....	9
Visits re milk licences.....	1
Ice cream premises inspected.....	1
Restaurants inspected.....	1
Miscellaneous food visits.....	8
Canteens inspected.....	4
Dairies inspected.....	5
Licensed premises inspected.....	4
Confectioners inspected.....	2
Infected milk supplies.....	1
Greengrocers inspected.....	6
Milk samples taken.....	115
Water samples taken.....	45
Goats milk samples.....	1
Ice cream samples taken.....	8

APPENDIX B.SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or new roofs provided.....	3
Rainwater gutters provided or repaired.....	3
Defective plaster repaired.....	2
Windows provided with new sash cords.....	3
Defective windows repaired or replaced.....	1
Walls repointed or repaired.....	2
Doors and door frames repaired.....	2

Miscellaneous.

Deposits of refuse removed.....	2
---------------------------------	---

Drainage.

Drainage disposal installations cleansed or repaired.....	3
Choked drains cleansed.....	7
Houses completely redrained.....	5

Water Closets, Dustbins, etc.

Additional water closets provided.....	9
Waste water closets converted to fresh water closets.....	32
Pail closets converted to fresh water closets.....	6
Tipplers repaired or renewed.....	2
Defective dustbins renewed.....	233

Bakehouses and Food Shops.

Provided with sink or water supply.....	1
Ceilings repaired.....	1

APPENDIX C.1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 129
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose..... 385
2. Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered so fit:
 - (a) Number found during the year..... 10
 - (b) Total number (or estimated number) at end of year.. 40
3. Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit..... 75

2. Houses Demolished.

- a) In Clearance Areas - Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

	<u>Houses Demolished.</u>	<u>Displaced during Quarter</u> <u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
1. Houses unfit for human habitation...	-	5	1
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.....	-	-	-
3. Houses on land acquired under S.27, Housing Act, 1936.....	-	-	-
- b) Not in Clearance Areas:
 4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.11, Housing Act, 1936..... 7 - -

3. Unfit Houses Closed.

- | | <u>Houses Closed</u> | | |
|---|----------------------|---|---|
| 1. Under S.11, Housing Act, 1936, and S.10 & 12, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953..... | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 2. Under S.3(1) and 3(2), Housing Act, 1949..... | - | - | - |
| 3. Parts of buildings closed under S.12, Housing Act, 1936..... | - | - | - |

4. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.

- | | <u>By Owner</u> | <u>By Local Authority</u> |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. After informal action by local authority..... | 61 | - |
| 2. After formal notice under a) Public Health Acts. 2 | - | - |
| b) Housing Act, 1936.. | - | - |
| 3. Under S.5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.. | - | - |

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

Number
of houses.

Position at end of year.

1) Retained for temporary accommodation:

a) Under Section 2.....	0
b) Under Section 3.....	0
c) Under Section 4.....	0

2) Licensed for temporary accommodation under Section 6.. 0

6. Purchase of Houses By Agreement.

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included
in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase
Orders, purchased during the year..... 0

7. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:	<u>Private</u> <u>Bodies</u>		<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>dwellings</u> <u>affected</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>dwellings</u> <u>affected</u>
a) Schemes submitted by private individuals to local authority.....	0	-	0	-
b) Approved by local authority.....	0	-	0	-
c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry..	0	-	0	-
d) Finally approved by Ministry.....	0	-	0	-
e) Work completed.....	0	-	0	-
f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e)....	0	-	0	-
g) Any other action taken under the Act.....	Loan made under Section 4 of the Act for the repair and improvement of a house.			

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APPENDIX D.PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	Type of Property.			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses.	All other including business premises.	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in district.....	14	6320	852	510
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:				
a) Notification.....	0	56	31	0
b) Survey under the Act..	7	34	0	404
c) Otherwise.....	4	0	5	0
3. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections.....	78	302	94	534
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) found to be infested by				
a) rats.....	11	55	27	65
b) mice.....	1	37	12	0
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated.....	11	89	27	65
6. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments.....	12	97	31	68
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act.....	-	-	-	-
8. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.....		- None	-	

APPENDIX E.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excluding Cows cows		Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.....	1895	283	25	8568	493
Number inspected.....	1895	283	25	8568	493
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	1	2	7	3
Organ or part of carcass condemned.....	31	21	0	7	8
% of number inspected affected.....	1.7%	7.8%	8%	0.2%	2.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	2	0	0	0	0
Organ or part of carcass condemned.....	79	23	0	0	13
% of number inspected affected.....	4.2%	8.1%	0%	0%	2.6%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	12	0	_____	_____	_____
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration....	12	0	_____	_____	_____
Generalised and totally condemned.....	0	0	_____	_____	_____

